



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - December 6, 2002

- ***In the West***, some cloudiness is overspreading the region in advance of a storm system, but dry weather persists. Various effects of the region's ongoing drought include reduced irrigation supplies, meager mountain snow packs, and poorly established ***Northwestern*** winter wheat.
- ***On the Plains***, fields and feedlots are snowy or muddy from ***southern Kansas southward into Texas***. However, only a patchy snow cover exists on the ***northern and central High Plains***, where more snow will be needed to adequately protect the winter wheat crop from potential weather extremes, such as high winds and low temperatures.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow covers many winter wheat fields in the ***Ohio Valley and lower Great Lakes States***, helping to insulate the crop from below-normal temperatures. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, cold weather is maintaining stress on livestock.
- ***In the South***, some ***interior portions of the region*** continue to recover from the recent snow and ice storm that caused locally significant travel and electrical disruptions. Meanwhile, cool, dry weather in the ***Gulf Coast States*** favors a limited return to fieldwork, although showers linger across ***Florida's peninsula***. Although this morning's temperatures fell to near the freezing mark (32 degrees F) in ***Louisiana's sugarcane areas***, the unharvested portion (about one-third) of the crop is not expected to suffer any adverse effects.

Outlook: Following the recent winter storm, dry, unseasonably cold weather will prevail across the ***Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***. Dry weather is also expected across the ***Plains and the South***, but showers may develop over ***Texas*** by week's end. Meanwhile, a cold front will sweep across the ***Great Lakes region***, resulting in snow showers and below-normal temperatures. In the ***West***, a few showers are possible across ***California***; otherwise, dry, mild weather is expected. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 11-15 calls for below-normal precipitation across the ***northern Plains***, while above-normal precipitation is forecast across the ***Gulf Coast and Southern Atlantic States***, and in the ***West***. Above-normal temperatures are expected across the ***northern two-thirds of the U.S.***, while near-normal temperatures are expected elsewhere.

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